Atlanta Ham

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Vanity Call Sign Fee To Drop September 6th

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 4, 2006 The regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop slightly starting with applications received by the FCC on or after Wednesday, September 6, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said this week. The new fee will be $20.80 for the 10-year license term. This year promises to be a big one for vanity call sign renewals, since the initial round of vanity grants under the current system occurred in 1996. Licensees who want to retain vanity call signs issued under the current (post-1995) system must pay the regulatory fee when renewing.

"Consistent with our established practice, we plan to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2006 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year," the FCC explained in a July 17 Report and Order (R&O), "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2006," in MD Docket 06-68. The FY 2006 vanity fee is a bit higher than the $20.10 for the license term that the Commission had proposed in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making last March. The current vanity call sign fee of $21.90 remains in effect for applications received by the FCC before September 6.

Amateur Radio licensees may file renewal applications no sooner than 90 days of their license expiration date. While the regulatory fee payment is required from licensees wishing to keep their current

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Long-Silent SuitSat-1 Keeps Going And Going...

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 27, 2006--When SuitSat-1 -- the novel satellite built in a surplus Russian Orlan spacesuit -- was launched during a spacewalk from the International Space Station last February 3, those familiar with orbital mechanics predicted it would stay in orbit for 120 days at best. As of August 25, some 203 days (nearly seven months) later -- largely forgotten and its ham radio voice long since silent -- SuitSat-1 has defied the odds and remains in orbit some 155 miles above Earth.

A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, SuitSat-1, identifying as RS0RS, transmitted its voice greetings on 2 meters plus an SSTV picture thousands of times. Although its signal was far weaker than it was supposed to be for reasons never determined with any certainty, SuitSat-1 remained operational for more than two weeks.

ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, had credited ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up

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THE ATLANTA HAM

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Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

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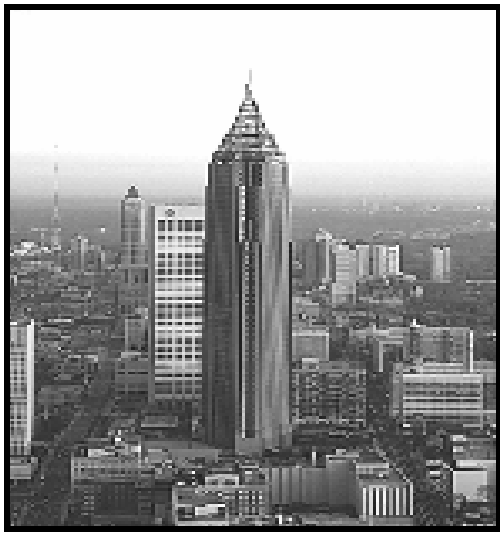
THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment.



Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.82(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates five repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). On the web, go to http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of our system.

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate two repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Dennis, KF4MHW. For pictures of that site, see http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html

The current schedule for net operations include the Sunday Night Net on 146.820 (Linked to 145.35 on FOX) at 8PM EST and the Southeastern VHF Net on Wednesday evenings at 9PM. The 146.820 machine can also be dialed into IRLP and SKYWARN/Peachtree City during inclement weather.

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS

WHEN:
Thursday September 7 , 2006 7:30PM

WHERE:
Red Cross 1955 Monroe Drive – Atlanta

PROGRAM: September Meeting - Thursday September 7th at The Red Cross on Monroe Drive.
7:00 PM - First look at the web site prototype
7:30 PM - High Definition Television as presented by N2NM Neil Mazur VP of Operations and Engineering and David Budwash Director of Engineering for WAGA-TV.
Bring your questions.
How much better is HD? Why? Band Plan?

TALK IN:
146.820 (-) PL 146.2

DINNER: Call 146.820 for the Latest info

Smithsonian's NN3SI to QRT during museum renovations

Smithsonian's NN3SI to QRT during museum renovations: NN3SI, the Amateur Radio station exhibit at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, will QRT in late August while the museum undergoes renovations that will include the ham station.

The museum is scheduled to reopen by the summer of 2008. Inaugurated in 1976 and supported by a volunteer staff, NN3SI occupies a corner in the "Information Age" exhibit on the first floor of the National Museum of American History, and it's been open daily for visiting radio amateurs to operate. -- submitted by Murray Green, K3BEQ (ARRL Letter August 11, 2006)

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Long-Silent SuitSat-1 Keeps Going And Going...

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with the SuitSat concept, called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian.

The SuitSat-1 mission proved to be an Amateur Radio public relations bonanza. In addition to prompting dozens of news items on Web sites and in journals around the world, Reader's Digest judged SuitSat-1 "Best Empty Suit" in its "America's 100 Best: The 2006 List" Popular Science ran an article about SuitSat-1 in its June issue called "Tossed in Space."

To keep the SuitSat-1 momentum going a bit longer ARISS and AMSAT in May announced a "Chicken Little Contest" <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/ariss/suitsatContest.php>, in which participants pick the date on which they believe SuitSat-1 will drop out of orbit and burn up in Earth's atmosphere. Entrants are only allowed one guess, and the winner will be the individual who picks the date closest to SuitSat-1's actual demise. Those who have not already entered may do so by filling out the online entry form on the AMSAT Web site. The odds could be in their favor.

Certificates will go to winners in each of three age groups. Winners not only earn bragging rights, but the fame and notoriety associated with successful satellite re-entry prognostication. Even before SuitSat-1 went silent, ARISS and AMSAT already were discussing the possibility of a SuitSat-2 with contacts in Russia, although plans remain tentative at this stage. ARRL ARISS Liaison Rosalie White, K1STO, is among those named to the SuitSat-2 team, which will meet prior to the ARISS International Meeting/AMSAT Space Symposium October 5-10. Among other things, the team will look into the possibility of equipping SuitSat-2 with solar panels instead of just batteries, to extend its usable life. No formal announcements about SuitSat-2 are expected until around mid-October.

Meanwhile, the time grows nigh when Suit-Sat-1 will pick up enough additional drag from Earth's atmosphere that friction-generated heat will cause it to burn up and vaporize. Just when that will happen is still anyone's guess. ■

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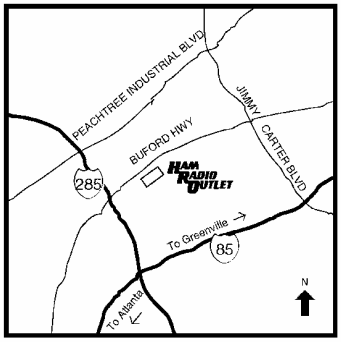
Tailor-made for DX' ing, the new TS-480HX HF transceiver raises the bar on portable performance. Despite its compact dimensions, it delivers an astonishing punch: 200W with a DC 13.8V supply. Yet its separate control panel is perfect for base station use. Sharing virtually all the same powerful features is the 100W TS-480SAT, except that it boasts a built-in antenna tuner. Whichever model you choose, you can be sure of enjoying the best of both worlds - first-rate communications at home and on the trail. This product can be used with the 5MHz frequency band for the US market.



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METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

Athens, GA
1st Monday of each EVEN-numbered month at 7:00 pm 2095 W. Broad Street.
Contact: EDWIN FUQUA, N4VA
(706) 354-1727 E: edwin.fuqua@charter.net

Cartersville, GA
1st Tuesday of each month at the Cartersville Kroger. Contact: JODI POWELL, AG4BK
(770) 387-1591

Gainesville, GA
1st Sunday of EVEN-numbered months
Johnson High School, 3305 Poplar Springs Rd
Contact: ALFRED WESTBROOK, KT4VP
(770) 965-4901 Email: kt4vp@arrl.net

Lilburn, GA
Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
4th Friday of Every Month at 7:00 pm
St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Rd
Contact: Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362
Headphones provided for CW tests.

Milledgeville, GA ARRL / VEC
2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library, 151 S. Jefferson Stacross from the Georgia Military Academy.Contact: OTIS MURPHY W4OY
(478) 452-6394 Email: W4OY@arrl.net

Peachtree City, GA
1st Thursday of EVEN-numbered months at 7:00 pm, and the 2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 10:00 am at the Peachtree City Library, downstairs meeting room. Contact: JAN DUBROCA, KN4JD (770) 502-0760

Snellville, GA
2nd Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Walton EMC, 3645 Lenora Church Road.
Contact: WAYNE TAYLOR, WD3CCA
(770) 498-7759

Stone Mountain, GA ARRL / VEC
Alford Memorial Radio Club
2nd Saturday of ODD-numbered months at 8:30 am Stone Mountain United Methodist Church, 5312 W. Mountain St.
Contact: BOB VARONE, W4ETN
(770) 978 3179 Email:bvarone@juno.com

Atlanta, GA
4th Sunday of each month, 2:30pm Georgia Tech
Visit http://cyberbuzz.gatech.edu/w4aql/test.html for more information and to sign up for a mailing list.
No pre-registration is required.
Email: w4aql-ve@cyberbuz.gatech.edu (emails preferred over phone calls)Phone: 404-894-2936

UPCOMING CONTESTS AND OP ACTIVITIES

Sep 1-Sep 2, 2100Z-2100Z, Brady, TX. Heart of Texas Ham Operators Group, WA5HOT. World Championship Barbecue Goat Cookoff. 21.360 14.250 7.295 3.875. Certificate. HOT-HOG, c/o Rick Melcer N5KAO, PO Box 1021, Brady, TX 76825. **www.hothog.org**.

Sep 11-Sep 12, 1400Z-0400Z, San Antonio, TX. Hill Country REACT, Alamo Regional Citizens Corp and the City of San Antonio Police Force, W2IK/WTC911. Commemorating 9-11 and National Preparedness Month. 15 20 40m. Certificate. Bob Hejl, W2IK, PO Box 6731, San Antonio, TX 78209. www.sanantoniohams.org.

Sep 16, 1400Z-2000Z, New Orleans, LA. Southeast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club, K5R. One year anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. 14.250 7.250. Certificate. SELARC, K5R Special Event, PO Box 1324, Hammond, LA 70404. www.selarc.org.

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sept 16
Paulding Amateur RC
www.pauldingarc.com
Talk-In: 146.895 (PL 77)
Dallas, GA
Paulding Meadows Park
Highway 61 North

Oct 14
Amateur Radio Club of Augusta
http://www.qsl.net/w4dv/
Talk-In: 145.490
Evans, GA
Evans Middle School

Oct 14
Al Brock Memorial Hamfest/Computer Show
Northwest Georgia ARC
http://www.w4vo.org
Talk-In: 146.94 - (PL 88.5)

The Signman of Baton Rouge

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79Castle Kirk Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808 USA
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Toll-Free 888-HAM-TAG1 (888-426-8241)
Http://thesignman.com

Vanity Call Sign Fee To Drop September 6th

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vanity call signs after renewal, vanity holders can opt to get a sequential call sign and avoid paying any fee when they renew.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, says the FCC has been handling vanity call sign license renewals from June without any delay or problems. "I'm sure Gate 2 will go just as smoothly if you use one of the automated methods of filing, such as via the ARRL or using the Universal Licensing System (ULS)," she predicted. "Paper filings to the FCC can be confusing and difficult." The FCC renewed nearly 3000 vanity call sign licenses during June and July.

Amateur Radio licensees holding vanity call signs granted prior to 1996 do not have to pay a regulatory fee when renewing. This is because Congress did not begin requiring the FCC to annually recover its regulatory costs until 1993. Additionally, such licensees are not specifically tagged as vanity call sign holders in the ULS.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

Somma says the ARRL's new license renewal/modification Web pages <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html> contain complete information on license-filing procedures, including step-by-step instructions on how to renew or update a license using the ULS <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>.

13-year-old Amateur Extra Wins Hiram Percy Maxim Award

A 13-year-old ARRL member and Amateur Extra class licensee, Jimmy Carter, KG4SGP, of Burke, Virginia, is the winner of the 2005 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. Jimmy is a student at Lake Braddock Secondary School, where he organized the Lake Braddock Secondary School Amateur Radio Club, which he serves as president. He says he got interested in ham radio from his parents, both of whom are licensed. He envisions an engineering career.

"I don't know if it's ham radio becoming my career or my career becoming ham radio," said Jimmy, reflecting how his interest in electronics has prompted him toward further self-study as well as trying to enjoy as many different facets of ham radio as he can. "I just get interested in a lot of different things in ham radio," he said. That included a recent foray into 6 meters as well as improving his Morse code speed, chasing DX and even building some of his own gear.

"I just really like everything about ham radio," he said.

The HPM Memorial Award goes each year to a radio amateur under the age of 21 whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio activities. The award was established in 1936, and formal nominations come from ARRL section managers.

After organizing his schools ham radio club, Jimmy found a teacher to sponsor it and several classmates to join. The club now boasts 15 members, 6 of whom are licensed. Jimmy also was instrumental in his school's successful application for an ARRL Education and Technology Program grant.

Aside from his club activities, Jimmy participates in weekly nets of the Alexandria Radio Club and is a volunteer responder for disaster relief. He is in several honor classes and is a varsity athlete. Jimmy recently took third place in the Virginia regional science fair with his project, "How Q Affects Bandwidth and Signal Strength."

The winner of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award receives a cash award of $1500, an engraved plaque, and travel and accommodations to the site of a formal presentation.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 720398 Atlanta, GA 30358

New[ ] Renewal[ ] Treasurer Use: Date Paid: Amount: Cash[ ] or Check#

Name _____ Call _____ Class _____

Address _____ City _____ ST __ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____ Birth _____

Occupation _____ Spouse's Name_____

Family Names (Included in membership) List Here:

Type of Application [ ] Voting $22 [ ] Student $8 [ ] Family $2/person(non-voting)

DUES PAID: ARC $_____ + FAMILY $_____ TOTAL $_____

Make your check payable to Atlanta Radio Club

ARRL On-Line Auction "Preview" Set for Mid-October

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 31, 2006 -- With a little less than two months to go and counting before the ARRL's first On-Line Auction gets under way, ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, says the League has received several generous donations from a variety of sources.

"I think you'll find a terrific variety of items when bidding kicks off on October 23," she said. Jahnke says the On-Line Auction site will open for a "preview" starting Monday, October 16.

"At that time, you'll be able to view many of the items that will be up for bid the following week," she said. "You'll also be able to register at that time, if you choose." Auction proceeds will help to support the League's educational services and programs. The auction will be open to all -- ARRL members and otherwise. Bidders just need online access and must register prior to participating, which they may do at any time during the auction.

The ARRL On-Line Auction will begin Monday, October 23, and will wrap up Friday, November 3. Jahnke and her Business Services team are planning, organizing and managing this premier event.

Jahnke said many ARRL members have inquired to ask if they could donate a piece of vintage Amateur Radio gear or other item for the auction -- either on their own behalf or in someone's memory.

"If this is something that you wish to do, please contact me to discuss it further," she said.

Jahnke says the link to the ARRL On-Line Auction site will become available via the ARRL Web home page during the preview October 16 and once the bidding begins October 23.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358

MEETING NOTICE - THURSDAY Sept 7, 2006

Robert C. Garcia
"Bob" - KD4JRT
"The Scopeman"
Tektronix Scope Repairs

845 Fairfield Dr. 770-977-5701
Marietta, Ga 30068 Esaronel@bellsouth.net

Join us for Lunch Bunch every Friday!

Location: Jolie Kobe's

From I285 and Roswell Rd go 0.2 miles south turn right on Lake Placid

1130AM—1230PM